

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 INR-11 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 AID-20

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 NIC-01 CU-05 /166 W

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R 061036Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0693

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CDR USSAG NKP

CINCPAC

UNCLAS VIENTIANE 6893

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, LA

SUBJECT: PTT STILL NOT STRUCK

REF: VIENTIANE 6765

1. IN SPITE OF THE DEADLINE MENTIONED IN PARA TWO OF REFTTEL, THE WORKERS AT THE MINISTRY OF POSTS, TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH (PTT) REMAIN AT THEIR JOBS. THEY AGREED TO WAIT UNTIL THE CABINET CONSIDERED THEIR GRIEVANCES. ON SEPTEMBER 4, THE CABINET DECIDED THAT KHAMLEUANG SAYARATH, THE MINISTRY'S DIRECTOR GENERAL--WHOM THE EMPLOYEE GROUP DEMANDS BE REMOVED--SHOULD BE PLACED ON LEAVE ALONG WITH SEVERAL OTHER PERSONS (WHO MAY WELL INCLUDE HIS ACCUSERS). MEANWHILE, AN AD HOC COMMITTEE WITHIN THE MINISTRY WILL EXAMINE THE COMPLAINTS OF THE DISGRUNTLED EMPLOYEES. ANY STRIKE WILL PRESUMABLY AWAIT THE RESULTS OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS.

2. ON AUGUST 30, THE NEWSPAPER XAT LAO HAD PUBLISHED
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A LETTER FROM THE SAVANNAKHET PROVINCE ASSOCIATION, WHICH

NUMBERS MR. KHAMLEUANG AMONG ITS MEMBERS, SUPPORTING THE DIRECTOR GENERAL'S POSITION AND ASKING THAT JUSTICE BE DONE. IN A LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF THE VIENTIANE POST, PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER 3, KHAMLEUANG CAME TO HIS OWN DEFENSE AND ASSERTED THAT, SHOULD HE HAVE TO GO ON LEAVE, HIS ACCUSERS SHOULD BE PLACED ON LEAVE STATUS AS WELL.

3. IN THE SAME ISSUE OF VIENTIANE POST, BOUNMY CHITPANYA, PRESIDENT OF THE LAO STUDENT ASSOCIATION, STATED THAT THE ORIGIN OF THE PRESENT LABOR UNREST WAS "THE PRESSURES OF A NEO-COLONIALIST SOCIETY WHICH PUT MORE VALUE ON MATERIAL GOODS THAN ON HUMAN BEINGS." HE ADDED THAT "THESE MANIFESTATIONS DO NOT THREATEN SOCIETY, BUT DO CAUSE DIFFICULTIES TO THE INTERESTS OF CERTAIN ROTTEN GROUPS FAVORED BY THE NEO-COLONIALIST SOCIETY." "IN ANY CASE," BOUNMY CONCLUDED, "THE ASSOCIATION BELIEVES THAT THESE DEMONSTRATIONS ARE A MISTAKEN EXPRESSION OF PATRIOTISM AND JUSTICE, BECAUSE THEY CONCERN ONLY THE EFFECTS OF THE PROBLEMS WHICH REMAIN THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE AND NATIONAL CONCORD."
WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR STRIKES, LABOR UNIONS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974VIENTI06893
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740247-1179
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740966/aaaacedg.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: VIENTIANE 6765
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUL 2002 by maustmc>; APPROVED <04 FEB 2003 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PTT STILL NOT STRUCK
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, LA, PTT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005